[Shri Krishna Kumar Birla]

I would, therefore, earnestly request the Government to take up the issue with the US Government at the political level to find a lasting solution before the anti-Indian venom spreads to other places in the United States and the problem proves intractable. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia. Not here. Mr. Chaturanan Mishra. Not here. Yes, Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy.

Damage caused to the Standing Cotton Crop due to Pests in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious problem faced by the cotton growers.

Madam, an area of over 1 25,000 hectares under cotton in Guntur and Prakasam districts has been seriously affected by pests resulting in substantial damage to the standing crop. I would also like to state in this connection that due to these difficulties and distress conditions, it has been reported that there were some deaths and also suicides by farmers. To mitigate the distress of the cotton farmers in the affected areas and also to assist the farmers in having adequate kharif crops in the ensuing season, the State Government under Shri N. T. Rama Rao has announced a package of concessions to the farmers after a meeting with the concerned MLAs of the two districts and senior officials and also the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Nageswara Rao. Some of the concessions which have been announced for the affected areas are that the short-term loans, sanctioned for raising cotton crop both by the co-operatives as well as commercial banks will be converted into medium-term loans. Repayment spread over a period of three years, commencing January 1988. During the current year no interest will be payable by the farmers. Where the accumulated interest exceeds outstanding principal amount, such interest will be waived. The auction of gold hypothecated as security towards crop loan to the farmer will be deferred. The affected farmers will also be assisted through subsidiary agricultural occupations such as dairying etc. by furnishing loans from the commercial banks.

Now, Madam, I submit here that the State Government and also the Chief Minister have taken up with the Central Government regarding the need for the Centre to charge only simple interest on the crop loans advanced to farmers by commercial banks as against the present practice of calculating the compound interest. Secondly, the Centre should extend crop insurance to cotton growers.

Madam, I hope that the Central Government will consider it sympathetically.

Deaths due to malnutrition in some villages of Barmer District of Rajasthan

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Madam Chairman, I am obliged to mentioned about the occurrence of multiple deaths and other ailments in Barmer district, resulting from malnutrition. This is a serious matter and its seriousness is on three counts. Firstly, on account of the fact that the Prime Minister had publicly stated on repeated occasions tha despite drought there will be, and there have been, no hunger deaths, which is an untruth. I do not, however, rise to rebut the braggadocio of jokers. It is a grave condition in my home district and a grave wrong that is continuing to take place.

Madam, the facts are that in just three villages out of the entire district, which is perhaps the largest district in the country—in three villages of Savan, Konra and Baratara—there have been more than 120 deaths. There are at least six families, each of which have lost 4 members, within a period of a month and

a half. What has caused it is the vital shortage of just two essentials : food and water.

Now, I am not making these assertions only on the basis of my own observations because they are in my own district or because I have visited these villages. I have in my hand a report prepared by a team of doctors deputed by the Medical College of Jodhpur who visited these villages and the team interrogated the symptomology of those who had died. It examined other members of the same family and also assessed the general health status of the community as a whole. This team found, above all, that the daily calorific intake of the district has fallen very gravely. It says that the dietary history was recorded from a a cross section of the population. An average adult is now being provided, if he has the money and the purchasing power and the employment, roughly ten kilograms of wheat per month. That is subject to employment and purchasing power. On that basis and calculation, the daily calorific intake per adult has fallen to 1100 calories whereas it should be a minimum of 2400 calories. Not only that. The team established that dysentary and respiratory infection was rampant. There is one instance in which three families drawing water from a common well suffered ten deaths in one day, due to dysentric illness. Chlidren below ten on an average throughout the district, were found to be suffering from florid scurvy, Vitamin-A deficiency. In village Savan, the surviving adults have different grades of anaemia.

You have given me only a minute. I will conclude by saying that in this district, as against the Prime Minister's stated target of employment of one out of five, not even one out of ten has got employment. Their average income is Rs. 6/- to Rs. 7/- per day. On a minimum, the payment is made after a delay of 45 days. There is no drinking water left. Please include that as on record.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Hereafter nothing will go on record.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hereafter I will sit down.

श्री अटल विहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय सदस्य ने जो कुछ कहा उस में उन्होंने "जोकर" शब्द का प्रयोग किया है । मैं नहीं जानता कि वह शब्द किस के लिये है । क्या "जोकर" शब्द पार्लियामेंटरी है ?

उपसभापति : अगर वह अनपार्लियामेंटरी है तो निकाल दिया जायेगा ।

श्री जसवंत सिंह : अगर उस हाउस में यह शब्द पार्लियामेंटरी है तो अगर मैं बात करूं तो उसे यहां भी पार्लियामेंटरी होना चाहिये ।

उपसभापति : अगर अनपार्लियामेंटरी होगा तो निकाल दिया जायेगा । अगर गलती से कोई अनपार्लियामेंटरी शब्द आ जाय प्रोसीडिंग्स में तो उसको एक्सपंज कर सकते है ।

श्री जसवंत सिंह : प्रधान मंत्री जी ने क्या उस शब्द का प्रयोग कर के गलती की है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : He cannot refer to the proceedings of the other House or to what happened in the other House.

उपसभापति : इस हाउस में जो कुछ बोला जाता है वह रेकार्ड होगा । दूसरे हाउस की बात यहां नहीं उठायी जा सकती । अगर वह रेकार्ड पर आ गया है और अनपार्लियामेंटरी है तो उसको एक्सपंज कर दिया जायेगा ।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is it unparliamentary as per the record of the House ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is.

श्री जसवन्त सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह शब्द अनपार्लियामेंटरी है या नहीं ?

उपसभापति : हम उस को देखेंगे और अगर अनपार्लियामेंटरी है तो उसको निकाल दिया जायेगा ।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Please look into the record. There is a glossary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have said that I will go through it and if it is unparliamentary, it will be expunged. Where is your problem ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह तो पता लगा लिया जाय कि श्री जसवन्त सिंह जी किसको जोकर कह रहे थे ।

उपसभापति : इसकी जरूरत नहीं है ।

Need to provide liberal Grants to Madhya Pradesh for Propagation of Higher Education and eradication Illiteracy

श्री केशव प्रसाद शुक्ल (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया, मध्य प्रदेश क्षेत्रीय आकार की दृष्टि से देश का सबसे विशाल प्रदेश है जिसमें बस्तर, झाबुआ, मंडला, सरगुजा आदि ऐसे जिले हैं जिनमें आदिवासी जनसंख्या तो बहुत मात्रा में है ही, साथ ही जिनमें जनसंख्या का छितराव भी बहुत अधिक दूरियों पर है । उदाहरण के तौर पर बस्तर जिले की जनसंख्या का घनत्व 47 व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ग किलोमीटर है । प्रदेश की लगभग एक तिहाई जनसंख्या तो आदिवासी/अनुसूचित जाति और पिछड़ी जातियों की है । इन वर्गों के और इन इलाकों के प्रथम पीढ़ी के युवक/युवतियों को उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आकृष्ट करने की दृष्टि से और जन आकांक्षाओं की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति करने के उद्देश्य से मध्य प्रदेश के उच्च शिक्षा विभाग का यह प्रयास रहा है कि सुदूरवर्ती ग्रामीण एवं आदिवासी बहुल क्षेत्रों में उच्च शिक्षा की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई जायें । इसी क्रम में करिन्दूल, सुकमा, भानुप्रतापुर, रामानुजगंज सीतापुर, सूरजपुर, बम्हनी बंजर, लोधीखेड़ा आदि आदिवासी अन्तर्वर्ती अंचलों में उच्च शिक्षा के साधन पहुंचाये गये हैं और इसके सुखद परिणाम भी मिल रहे हैं ।

उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र को अपेक्षित भागों में वित्तीय साधन उपलब्ध न हो पाने पर भी, शिक्षा विभाग, मध्य प्रदेश की आवश्यकताओं के सन्दर्भ में एक शिक्षित मानव शक्ति के सृजन में लगा हुआ है । प्रदेश के लगभग 170 महाविद्यालय भवन विहीन हैं । अनेक महाविद्यालय कामचलाऊ भवनों अथवा किराये के भवनों में लग रहे हैं । खेलकूद की सुविधाओं, छात्रावासों, आवासगृहों के अभाव हैं और सीमित वित्तीय साधनों में इनकी पूर्ति नहीं हो पाई है । म०प्र० का शिक्षा विभाग जन सहयोग को प्राप्त करने का प्रयास कर रहा है । शिक्षण शुल्क सन् 1966 से आज तक अपरिवर्तित है जब कि वेतन भत्तों का भार, साज-सज्जा की कीमतें, उपकरणों के मूल्य कई गुना बढ़ चुके हैं । यह विचारणीय है कि उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भी अन्य कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की भांति लागत और लाभ के अनुपात के तत्व को स्थान दिया जाये । उच्च शिक्षा के व्यय भार के दायित्व में किसी सीमा तक समाज की भागीदारी को बढ़ाना अपरिहार्य है । इसीके साथ केन्द्रीय सरकार को भी मध्य प्रदेश सरीखे विशाल क्षेत्र वाले प्रदेश को विशेष सहायता देनी चाहिए ।

अतः मैं इस विषय की ओर केन्द्रीय शासन का ध्यान आकृष्ट कर निवेदन करता हूं कि विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग को प्रेरित करें कि मध्य प्रदेश की भौगोलिक बनावट, जनसंख्या के फैलाव और उसके शैक्षिक पिछड़ेपन को दूर कर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अन्य प्रदेशों के समकक्ष लाने की दृष्टि से अनुदान की तकनीकी शर्तों में रियायत देकर अधिक से अधिक अनुदान उदारतापूर्वक दें । इससे शासन के उच्च शिक्षा में गुणवत्ता पैदा करने के संकल्प को बल मिल सकेगा ।